



Scottish Law Commission

promoting law reform

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ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION

4 September 2013

Programme for Government 2013-14

Scottish Law Commission welcomes
Scottish Government plans to introduce law reform Bills,
and put forward candidate Bill for new Parliamentary procedures

The Scottish Law Commission welcomes the announcement by the First Minister that the Government intend to introduce a Bill in the Scottish Parliament to reform aspects of the law relating to damages for personal injuries; a bankruptcy consolidation Bill; and a Bill on Conclusion of Contracts to implement the Commission's Report on Formation of Contract: Execution in Counterpart.

On 25 April this year, the Commission published a Report entitled Review of Contract Law – Report on Formation of Contract: Execution in Counterpart (Scot Law Com No 231). [Read more](#)

The Commission issued a Report on the consolidation of the law on bankruptcy on 14 May this year (Scot Law Com No 232). [Read more](#)

The Scottish Government consulted last year on proposals to reform the law relating to damages for personal injuries, building on recommendations from three Scottish Law Commission Reports: a Report in 2004 on Damages for Psychiatric Injury (Scot Law Com No 196); a Report in 2007 on Personal Injury Actions: Limitation and Prescribed Claims (Scot Law Com No 207); and on outstanding recommendations in a Report in 2008 on Damages for Wrongful Death (Scot Law Com No 213).

Lady Clark of Calton, Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission, said:

"I am delighted by the First Minister's announcement that the legislative programme for the year ahead will include a Bill on Conclusion of Contracts, reflecting our recommendations on Execution in Counterpart; a Bill on damages for personal injuries, building on the work of the Commission in this area; and a Bill to consolidate bankruptcy legislation.

Earlier this year the Scottish Parliament put in place a process to enable more time in the Parliament to consider certain Commission Bills. I welcome the statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice that the Conclusion of Contracts Bill will be put forward as a candidate for the new Parliamentary procedures.

This Bill is designed to assist businesses in Scotland by allowing execution in counterpart and delivery of signed documents electronically - and so avoid unnecessary expense, effort and even loss of business from Scotland."

Background

New process for certain Commission Bills

In coming to their decision earlier this year to provide more Parliamentary time for certain Commission Bills, the Scottish Parliament accepted the recommendations and draft changes to Standing Orders proposed by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. See the [Official Report for 28 May](#). The changes took effect on 5 June 2013.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Scottish Law Commission was set up in 1965 to promote the reform of the law of Scotland. The Chairman is the Hon Lady Clark of Calton, a Court of Session judge. The other Commissioners are Laura J Dunlop QC, Patrick Layden QC TD, Professor Hector L MacQueen, and Dr Andrew J M Steven. The Chief Executive is Malcolm McMillan.
2. Further information can be obtained by contacting Malcolm McMillan, Scottish Law Commission, 140 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PR (Tel: 0131 668 2131, Fax: 0131 662 4900, email: info@scotlawcom.gsi.gov.uk).
3. The paper may also be viewed on our website at <http://www.scotlawcom.gov.uk/> or purchased from TSO (<http://www.tsoshop.co.uk/>).